



Indiana Historical Bureau

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News

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“State Seminary of Indiana” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Bloomington

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for Friday, August 26, 2011. The state historical marker commemorates the original site of Indiana University. It will be dedicated at 1:00 P.M. (EDT) at Seminary Square Park, 100 West Second Street, Bloomington, Indiana.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**State Seminary of Indiana**”:

Congress, asserting that education was necessary for representative government, granted Indiana one township of land to support a seminary as part of its admission to statehood in 1816. In 1820, Governor Jonathan Jennings approved the act creating the State Seminary. When classes first began here April 4, 1825, only Ancient Greek and Latin were taught. Legislation recreated the Seminary as Indiana College (1828) and Indiana University (1838) to teach “useful arts and sciences” and attract more students. After a fire in 1883, University Trustees purchased land northeast of here at Dunn’s Woods for a new campus that would allow for development and enlargement of the University; classes began there in 1885.

The dedication ceremony is open to the public. Indiana University Provost and Executive Vice President Karen Hanson and Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan will host the ceremony which will also include planting a tree to mark community efforts to replace Seminary Square Park trees destroyed by the May storm. Free tours of Wylie House Museum, home of IU’s first president, Andrew Wylie, at 307 E. Second Street will be available between 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Call 812-855-6224 to make a tour reservation.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For more than 95 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For more information about this marker, the Indiana Historical Marker Program, and other Indiana history resources, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2535. For more information about the dedication ceremony, call 812-855-9011 or contact Indiana University, Office of the Provost, Bryan Hall 100, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.

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